

identifying a resource associated with a transactional processing system based upon resource data, the resource data being indicative of the capabilities of resources associated with the transactional processing system; and  
routing the transaction to the identified resource.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, including supplying the resource data and the transaction request to a transactional routing controller which routes the transaction based on the resource data and the transaction request.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction contains an identifier indicating the nature of the transaction request.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, including generating a data message in response to the transaction request, the data message providing the identifier to a transactional routing controller.

5. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource data is supplied from the transactional processing system and identifies the resource capabilities associated with each resource of the transactional processing system.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the resource includes:  
comparing the resource data associated with a plurality of transactional processing systems to the transaction request; and  
determining a correlation between the resource data and the transaction request;  
and  
routing the transaction to an appropriate transactional processing system in response to the correlation.

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein determining the correlation between the resource data and the transaction request is determined in accordance with a set of associated operating rules.
  8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, which includes reserving the resource which has been identified.
  9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, which includes communicating a reservation response from the transactional processing system to a transactional routing controller to confirm that the resource has been reserved.
  10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, which includes generating a routing message based upon the reservation response, the routing message indicating the identity of the resource which has been reserved.
  11. (Amended) The method of claim 9, which includes supplying the transaction to the resource which has been reserved based upon the routing message.
  12. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction is supplied to a queue associated with the identified resource, the queue being configured to supply the transaction to the identified resource.
  13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction is supplied to the transactional processing system which then supplies the transaction to the identified resource.
  14. (Amended) An apparatus to route a transaction, the apparatus including:

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a transaction handler to receive a transaction and generate a transaction request;  
a transactional routing controller to:

- (1) receive the transaction request and resource data from at least one transactional processing system, the resource data being indicative of the capabilities of resources associated with the transactional processing system;
- (2) identify an appropriate resource associated with the transactional processing system based upon the resource data and the transaction request; and
- (3) supply the transaction to the appropriate resource.

15 (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transaction contains an identifier indicating the nature of the transaction request.

16 (Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein a data message is generated by the transaction handler to provide the identifier to the transactional routing controller.

17 (Unamended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the resource data from the transactional processing system identifies the resource capabilities associated with each resource of the transactional processing system.

18 (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transactional routing controller compares the resource data and the transaction request to determine a correlation value between the resource data and the transaction request, the transactional routing controller using the correlation value to identify the appropriate resource associated with the transactional processing system to service the transaction request.

19 (Unamended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transactional routing controller reserves the appropriate resource.

20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the transactional processing system generates a signal confirming that the appropriate resource has been reserved.

21. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the transactional processing system supplies a reservation response to the transactional routing controller to indicate that the appropriate resource has been reserved.

22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the transactional routing controller generates a routing message based upon the reservation response, the routing message indicating the identity of the resource which has been reserved.

23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the transaction handler supplies the transaction to the resource which has been reserved based upon the routing message.

24. (Unamended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transaction handler supplies the transaction to a queue associated with the appropriate resource, the queue being configured to supply the transaction to the appropriate resource.

25. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transaction handler supplies the transaction to the transactional processing system which supplies the transaction to the appropriate resource.

26. (Amended) An apparatus to route a transaction, the apparatus including:  
first means for receiving a transaction and generating a transaction request;  
second means for:

receiving the transaction request and resource data from a third means;  
identifying an appropriate resource associated with the third means, in accordance with associated operating rules, capable of servicing the transaction based upon the resource data and the transaction request; and  
supplying the transaction to the appropriate resource.

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28. (Amended) An apparatus to route a transaction, the apparatus including:  
a transactional routing controller to receive a transaction request and resource data from a transactional processing system, the transactional routing controller identifying an appropriate resource associated with the transactional processing system which is capable of servicing the transaction based upon the resource data and the transaction request; and  
wherein the transactional routing controller supplies the transaction to the appropriate resource.

29. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by the machine, causes the machine to:  
receive a transaction request associated with a transaction;  
identify a resource associated with a transactional processing system based upon resource data, the resource data being indicative of the capabilities of resources associated with the transactional processing system and a transaction request indicative of a request associated with the transaction; and  
route the transaction to the identified resource.

30. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the medium supplies the resource data and the transaction request to a transactional routing controller.

31. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the transaction contains an identifier indicating the nature of the transaction request.

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32. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 31, wherein a data message is generated in response to the transaction request, the data message providing the identifier to a transactional routing controller.

33. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the resource data is supplied from the transactional processing system and identifies the resource capabilities associated with each resource of the transactional processing system.

34. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the medium compares the resource data and the transaction request to determine a correlation between the resource data and the transaction request in order to identify the resource capable of servicing the transaction.

35. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the determination of the correlation between the resource data and the transaction request is determined in accordance with a set of associated operating rules.

36. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the medium reserves the resource after identifying the resource as capable of servicing the transaction.

37. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the medium supplies a reservation response to a transactional routing controller indicating that the resource has been reserved.

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38. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the medium generates a routing message based upon the reservation response, the routing message indicating the identity of resource which has been reserved.

39. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the medium supplies the transaction to the resource which has been reserved based upon the routing message.

40. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the medium supplies the transaction to a queue associated with the identified resource, the queue being configured to supply the transaction to the identified resource.

41. (Unamended) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the medium supplies the transaction to the transactional processing system, the transactional processing system being configured to supply the transaction to the identified resource.